



**CCCC E-Newsletter December, 2004 Issue**

Season Greetings from Community Connection for Child Care! Now we are in the middle of the holiday season and we are reminded of the many people working together to make the life of a child better - child care providers, early childhood educators, private professionals, family members and friends. December is a busy time! Did you know that December is National Stress Free Holiday Month? It is important for you to take good care of yourself during the holiday season - consider this the most valuable gift you can give yourself!

The Resource Library at the 24th Street office will be closed to the public from December 15, 2004 to January 3, 2005. Equipment, books and toys will not be available for check-out. R&R staff will be using this down time to clean, repair and replace materials and toys as well as update files for the new year. They will continue to do phone and walk-in child care referrals. Starting January 3, 2005, the Resource Library will no longer be open on Saturdays, but will continue to offer extended hours on Thursday nights from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Until next time, our best to you and yours --  
The staff of Community Connection for Child Care

^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^**THIS MONTH'S FEATURES**^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^

Wendy Wayne Scholarship This scholarship was established to support students completing their studies in early childhood education with books & tuition.

Who may apply? The applicant must currently be a student studying in the field of early childhood education and currently working in the child development field.

What is the procedure for application?

- Submit an application.
- Attach two (2) letters of recommendation (From an instructor, employer, or an early childhood professional).
- Attach verification of student status.
- Attach a one-page statement outlining how this award will help meet educational and career goals.

An application can be picked up at the Child & Family Services building located at 2000 24th Street, Bakersfield, or call (661) 861-5217 for more information. Applications must be received by Tuesday, February 15, 2005.

The award will be presented on February 26, 2005, at the 20th Annual Professional Recognition Luncheon sponsored by the Kern Association for the Education of Young Children and Community Connection for Child Care.

**\*CCCC PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT\***

Emergency Child Care Program The upcoming holidays remind us what an important support family and friends can be to our own families. When sudden emergencies come up, they are the first we turn to and trust to care for our children when we cannot.

Unfortunately, there are many families in Kern County who do not have a such a support system, and when a parent faces a family crisis or medical emergency, often there is no one to care for the children left behind.

Since 1997, CCCC's Emergency Child Care Program has helped over 150 families during a family crisis and emergency and has provided child care for more than 250 children from birth to 14 years. Trained community volunteers are contacted by hospitals or law enforcement when a family needs assistance and transport the child to a volunteer family child care provider, who will care for the child for up to 72 hours. In the past, some of these children would have been placed in the child welfare system. Funded by the Kern County Network for Children with Child Abuse Prevention, Intervention and Treatment (CAPIT) funding, the Emergency Child Care Program works to keep families and siblings together and gives these children, who are already under a great deal of stress, a sense of security in a safe, home environment with a trained child care provider.

The program is looking for volunteers who would be able to help children and parents in a crisis situation. As a volunteer, you would carry a pager one or more days per month, respond to calls from hospitals, law enforcement, etc., and transport the child to one of the volunteer licensed child care providers. If you have a love of children and a desire to help then this may be for you. If you are interested or would like more information regarding our next training, call Jason Y. Krouse at (661) 861-5203 or toll-free at 877.861.5200.

**\*MONTHLY PLANNER\***

December is "Read a New Book Month." Click here for a list of websites for recommendations of children's books for even the most reluctant readers.  
<http://pbsmail.org/ct/Epz9RPd1XjZA/>

December 18, 2004 is "Bake Cookies Day." Click here for recipes and learn how cooking can help kids of all ages learn. <http://familyfun.go.com/recipes/>  
The week of December 20, 2004 is "International Language Week" Click here to learn how to say "hello" in different languages around the world!  
<http://www.ipl.org/div/kidspace/hello/>

^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^**CHECK THIS OUT**^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^

**\*KIDS IN THE KITCHEN\***

A fun way to introduce new veggies to children and have them help you in the kitchen!

**ZUCCHINI CARROT COOKIES**

- 3/4 cup margarine
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 2 1/2 cups enriched flour
- 2 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon soda

2 teaspoons cinnamon  
1 cup shredded zucchini  
1/2 cup shredded carrots

Cream the margarine and sugar. Add the egg and vanilla; mix well. Add the shredded vegetables and mix. Combine the dry ingredients in a bowl. Add the dry ingredients to the creamed mixture; mix thoroughly. Drop the dough by teaspoonful onto an ungreased baking sheet. Bake at 350 degrees for 10 to 12 minutes. Yield: 30 servings

Snack Suggestion: One zucchini carrot cookie and 1/2 cup milk

A child can help measure ingredients and drop dough by teaspoonful onto the baking sheet.

**\*FEATURED QUOTE\***

"Joy is a tiny hand closed around an index finger." - Maya Angelou